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ther statement. It is becoming increasingly evident, however, that the continuation of the *Synoptical Flora* could not have fallen into more competent hands. The most scrupulous care is evident upon every page of Dr. Robinson's work. While critical enough not to accept everything published, he has evidently taken all possible pains to consider every claim, and under his editorship the *Synoptical Flora* cannot be accused of the neglect which comes from carelessness. Judgment must always differ as to the taxonomic importance of certain characters, and the conception of variety, species, etc., is a variable one. Naturally, a work prepared by several authors, however carefully edited, will be more or less uneven, but this is inevitable, and it would seem that its possible disadvantage is far outweighed by the positive advantage of more rapid publication.

Perhaps the most important pieces of fresh work are found in Dr. Robinson's revision of the Caryophyllaceæ, and Professor Bailey's treatment of the Vitaceæ.

A supplement of fifteen pages contains "additions and corrections" in connection with the first fascicle, so far as the editor has had time to consider carefully the fresh literature on the groups presented. It is announced that a third fascicle is now in preparation by Dr. Robinson to include the Leguminosæ.—J. M. C.

#### Plantæ Europææ.<sup>4</sup>

It is a gratification to know that Richter's "Enumeratio" is to be completed, and by so competent an editor as Dr. Gürke, curator of the Botanical Museum of Berlin. The first volume of Richter's work was published seven years ago, and at his death it seemed very doubtful whether it would ever be completed. The second volume was left in manuscript, but the accessions have been so numerous, and matters of range, synonymy, and nomenclature have become so modified that Dr. Gürke has been called upon to do a large amount of editing. He has concluded, also, to issue the second volume in fascicles, the first one of which is now before us. It is not necessary to explain the scope and importance of this work. Its purpose is fully stated in the title, and its quality is well known from the first volume. The present author adopts the sequence of Engler in *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, and in matters of nomenclature he is of the Berlin school, which accepts the 1753 date and the law of priority, but thinks that the latter must not be too rigidly applied. The present fascicle introduces the Archichlamydeæ, extending from Juglandaceæ through Chenopodiaceæ.—J. M. C.

<sup>4</sup>GÜRKE, DR. M.—Plantæ Europææ. Enumeratio systematica et synonymica plantarum phanerogamicarum in Europa sponte crescentium vel mere inquilinarum. Operis a Dr. K. Richter incepti. Tomus II. Fasc. 1. 8vo. pp. vi+160. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann, 1897. M. 5.